

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15 are pending. No amendments have been made by way of the present submission, thus, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 6-12 and 15 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0194663A1 to Li et al. (hereinafter referred to as Li '663), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,637,143 to Jenkins et al. (hereinafter referred to as Jenkins '143).

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Li '663 and Jenkins '143 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,624,486 to Schmid et al.

Lastly, claim 5 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Li '663 and Jenkins '143 as set forth above and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,688,314 to Rose et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the above rejections.

Present independent claim 1 relates to an aluminum pigment containing aluminum particles, a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate covering the surface of each of said aluminum particles and a silica coat comprising amorphous silica further covering said molybdenum coat.

Independent claim 7 is directed to a method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment, including the steps of: forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each said aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound; and forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound.

Independent claim 12 relates to a method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment including the steps of: forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each said aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound; forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound; and forming a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on the surface of said silica coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said silica coat, said silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said silane coupling agent.

Lastly, independent claim 15 relates to a method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles each having a molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound, a silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic

catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound and said silane coupling agent for forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle while forming a coat prepared from said silane coupling agent thereon.

In rejecting the claims of the present application, the Examiner relies upon Li '663 as the primary reference in each rejection. Applicants point out that the Li '663 reference has an effective U.S. filing date of July 1, 2002. However, the present inventors invented the presently claimed subject matter prior to July 1, 2002. Indeed, as explained in the attached Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, the present inventors had an actual reduction to practice of the presently claimed subject matter prior to the July 1, 2002 filing date of Li '663.

Therefore, Applicants have properly antedated the Li '663 reference. Without the support of the Li '663 reference, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) necessarily fail. Thus, these rejections are moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims define allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections and allow the presently pending claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie, Reg. No. 42,874 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/525,068
Amendment dated April 11, 2008
In response to Office Action of October 29, 2007

Docket No.: 0033-0983PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments: Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
Certified Copy of JP 2001-343217
English translation of JP 2001-343217